

April, 1999



# Wastewater News

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*Working towards Clean Water*



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Office of Wastewater Management



## UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

### **What is happening in April?**

Date(s)	Activity	Location	Contact
4/6-7	NETCSC course: "Assessing WW Options for Small Communities"	Jefferson City, MO.	Betty Ford (202) 260-8510
4/7-8/99	Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Training (see information below)	Denver, CO	Laura Phillips (202) 260-9522
4/7	Water Quality State Program Management Gap Analysis	Washington, D.C.	Jane Ephremides (202) 260-7880
4/8	Water Gap Analysis Meeting	Washington, D.C.	Jane Ephremides (202) 260-7880
4/6-9	National Hardrock Mining Framework Meeting	Butte, MO	Jennifer Sachar (202) 260-1389
4/13	Hardrock Mining E-delphi Remining Participant Meeting	Washington, DC	Jennifer Sachar (202) 260-1389
4/12-16	NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course	Jackson, MS	Jennifer Sachar (202) 260-1389
4/19-20	NETCSC course: "Assessing WW Options for Small Communities"	Cedar Rapids, IA	Betty Ford (202) 260-8510
4/26-27	State/EPA SRF Work Group	Washington, D.C.	Kristin Kenausis (202) 260-2036
4/27-5/2	Meetings on Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (see description below)	St. Louis, MO.	Steve Hogye (202) 260-5841

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **CWA 104(g)(1) Operator Assistance and Training Activities**

The National Operator Trainers' Conference will be held from June 6 through the 9, 1999 in Providence, Rhode Island. The final agenda for the Conference will be issued in April 1999. The Conference will include technical sessions, trouble shooting sessions, field trips, and an awards ceremony. Representative from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental

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Management and New England Interstate are coordinating the event. For more information regarding this event access this Program's web-page at [epa.gov/owm/tomm.htm](http://epa.gov/owm/tomm.htm). For more information contact Curt Baranowski at (202) 260-5806.

### **Biosolids**

**National Meeting:** OWM is planning a national meeting for Headquarters, Regional, and State personnel involved in all aspects of the biosolids program, including program management and technical support, permitting, compliance, and enforcement. The agenda is currently being developed. The proposed meeting location is the Washington, D.C. area, and the proposed time frame is June-July 1999. Lodging and meals (but not travel) for one representative from each State will be paid for under a grant to the State of Wisconsin which has agreed to co-sponsor the workshop. OWM will defray cost of meals and lodging for one person from each Regional office. Additional State/Regional representatives may attend at their own expense. For additional information, contact Ed Gross on (202) 260-7370.

### **Conference Announcement and Call for Papers**

OWM, in cooperation with Region 5 and the Northeast Illinois Planning Commission, is co-sponsoring a National Conference on "Tools for Urban Water Resource Management and Protection" in Chicago, February 7 - 10, 2000. A call for papers is open until March 1. The conference will provide participants with practical, applied information on the most effective tools and technology for meeting NPDES permit requirements, and will emphasize the Phase II program's six minimum measures. For more information, see [http://www.nipccog.il.us/water\\_tools\\_2000.htm](http://www.nipccog.il.us/water_tools_2000.htm) or contact John Kosco on (202) 260-6385.

### **Meetings on Decentralized Wastewater Treatment**

Two meetings will be held in St. Louis to consider decentralized wastewater treatment issues. The first is sponsored by the National Small Flows Clearinghouse and is a national forum for state-level officials who regulate onsite and decentralized systems. The meeting will take place April 30 through May 2, and will allow officials to consider issues such as alternative technologies, training, inspections, performance codes and comprehensive management programs. The second meeting is sponsored by EPA and is scheduled for May 3 and 4 at the same location. The focus of discussion will be a proposed EPA guidance manual on management programs for decentralized systems. Invitees include representatives of various organizations whose members are directly impacted by decentralized treatment issues. For more information please contact Steve Hogue on (202) 260-5841.

### **Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Training Courses**

The SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) Foundation has developed a two day Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) training course as part of its ongoing activities under a cooperative agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Water (Permits Division). The first offering is at the Rocky Mountain Regional Chapter on April 7-8, 1999 in Denver, Colorado. Please contact Dan Beyers at (970) 491-5475 for information at this location or see additional contact information below. SETAC's WET training course schedule is updated periodically and the current course(s) in SETAC's Regional Chapters are listed below. The WET course will cover water quality topics such as Criteria and Standards, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting and enforcement, WET testing and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), as they apply to the WET program. If you would like to request a two day training course for your State, Tribe or group or need more information about the courses or the schedule, please contact Gregory (Greg) Schiefer at the SETAC Foundation at (850-469-1500), by fax (850-469-9778) or by E-mail ([setac@setac.org](mailto:setac@setac.org)). Alternatively, you may contact Laura Phillips (EPA) at (202)-260-9522.

## REGULATIONS AT WORK

### **Proposed Rule on Electronic Reporting in the NPDES Program**

EPA is proposing changes to its NPDES regulations to allow reports and other information to be submitted electronically. When EPA promulgated the current NPDES regulations, the Agency did not anticipate the need for electronic reporting. Consequently, the current regulations do not specifically address use of electronic reporting technologies. The proposed rule would establish criteria for electronic reporting and a specific process and conditions for electronic reporting of discharge monitoring reports (DMR) to EPA. The proposal addresses electronic signature, certification, and record keeping requirements that permittees would follow when submitting forms to EPA electronically. A stakeholder draft is currently available. We expect to publish a proposed rule in April, 1999. For more information, contact Robin Danesi on (202) 260-2991.

### **Final Rule for NPDES Municipal Permit Application Forms and Regulatory Revisions**

The current NPDES Permit Application regulations and forms would be revised to reflect amendments to the Clean Water Act and changes in program requirements and emphasis. This action would also develop a sewage sludge permit application form and revise permit application regulations to foster the issuance of permits implementing the Agency's standards for sludge use or disposal. The proposal was published in the Federal Register on December 6, 1995. Comment review is complete and we are expecting the final rule in April, 1999. For more information, contact Robin Danesi on (202) 260-2991.

### **Streamlining the General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution (Proposed Rulemaking #2040-AC58)**

The proposal will streamline portions of the National Pretreatment Program (40 CFR 403) to reduce the burden from technical and administrative requirements that affect industrial users, Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), and Regional and State Control Authorities. OMB has completed its review of the draft proposal, and we anticipate sending the proposed rule to the Administrator for signature in April, 1999. For further information, contact Jeff Smith on (202) 260-5586.

### **Regulation to Implement Section 106 State and Interstate Allotment Formulas for the Clean Water Act, Section 106 Grant Program**

With the support of the States presenting various Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions, EPA has reached consensus on the Clean Water Act, Section 106 State and interstate allotment formulas for FY 2000 and beyond. In accordance with the Clean Water Act, EPA is planning to implement the Section 106 State and interstate allotment formulas by promulgating them in a regulation during April 1999. For further information contact Carol Crow on (202) 260-6742.

### **Clean Water Action Plan Forest Roads Pilot Permitting Study**

EPA, in consultation with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, is considering whether to revise Clean Water Act NPDES permit regulations relative to forest roads. EPA is also developing a pilot NPDES permitting program for forest roads on federal lands. On February 19, EPA completed a draft copy of a background report on existing data concerning the impact of forest roads on water quality and Best Management Practices' effectiveness. EPA, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management have completed review of this draft. A revised version is expected by April 2, 1999, and will

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be circulated to non-federal stakeholders for comment. The report will be used to guide the workgroup in identifying BMPs for forest roads and mechanisms for encouraging their implementation. For more information, contact Howard Rubin on (202) 260-2051.

### OTHER INFORMATION

#### **Final USDA-EPA Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations Released**

On March 9, 1999, the Vice President announced the final USDA-EPA Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs). The Strategy is a major component of the President's Clean Water Action Plan and reflects an extensive public outreach effort by USDA and EPA. The Strategy sets forth a framework of actions that USDA and EPA plan to take, under existing legal and regulatory authority, to minimize the water quality and public health impacts of improperly managed animal wastes while complementing the long-term sustainability of livestock production. The Strategy relies heavily on the stewardship ethic of producers and is based on a national performance expectation that all AFO owners and operators should develop and implement technically sound, economically feasible, and site-specific "comprehensive nutrient management plans" for managing the animal wastes produced at their facilities. Additional information and a complete copy of the Strategy is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/afo.htm>. Paper copies of the Strategy will also be made available in the near future at (202) 260-7786. For more information, call Will Hall at (202) 565-3030.

#### **Biosolids**

***Beneficial use of Biosolids Awards Program:*** EPA is accepting nominations for regional and national awards for operating projects, technology development activities, research, and public acceptance activities. Guidance for the program is available on the Internet (<http://www.epa.gov/owm/biogud.htm>) or by calling John Walker on 202-260-7283.

#### **Small Community Team Programs Reported in International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Newsletter**

The current issue of ICMA's newsletter SCAN overviews several grant programs managed by Small Underserved Communities Team members. SCAN carries thumb-nail summaries of the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC), the National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC), the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), and the Small Community Outreach and Education (SCORE) program. The newsletter's next issue will highlight several other programs team members manage. SCAN is the newsletter put out by the Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN), an outreach program conducted by the ICMA with funding by EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. For more information, contact Betty B. Ford on (202) 260-8510.

#### **Availability of Guidance for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Monitoring and Modeling**

The "Combined Sewer Overflow Guidance for Monitoring and Modeling", EPA 832-B-99-002, will be available later this month. This manual explains the role of monitoring and modeling in the development of a CSO control program. It expands the discussions of monitoring and modeling that were included in the EPA's 1994 CSO Control Policy and presents examples of data collection and combined sewer system (CSS) simulations. It is not a "how-to" manual defining how many samples to collect or which flow metering technology to use. The manual is a set of guidelines that provides flexibility for a municipality to develop a site-specific strategy for characterizing its CSS operation and impacts and for developing and implementing a comprehensive CSO control plan. For more information, contact Tim Dwyer at (202) 260-6064.

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### **Publication of Guidance on Discharge Monitoring and Reporting for Storm Water Industrial Permittees**

The AGuidance Manual for the Monitoring and Reporting Requirements of the NPDES Storm Water Multi-Sector General Permit, @EPA 833-B-99-001, is now available. This publication describes the storm water discharge monitoring requirements (visual, analytic and compliance) and analytic monitoring reports required of certain industrial sectors covered by the Multi-Sector General Permit. It will be available on the OWM website and through the OW Resources Center. For more information, contact Bryan Rittenhouse on (202) 260-0592.

### **Fact Sheet for EPA's Small Community Wastewater Project with the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)**

An updated Fact Sheet, "Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), Help for Small Communities" EPA 832-F-99-013, is now available on the OWM website and the Office of Water Resource Center. The Fact Sheet provides a description of the EPA's small community wastewater project, types of communities assisted, types of projects funded, the accomplishments, level of program funding, and the number of communities benefitted from the program. For more information, contact Maria Campbell at (202) 260-5815.

### **CWSRF FY 2000 Nonpoint Source and Estuary Management Grant Proposal**

The Administration is authorizing the use of up to 20% of FY 2000 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Capitalization Grants for use as grants, instead of loans, for nonpoint source and estuary projects. The entire allotment of the CWSRF appropriation will be provided to States and Puerto Rico as CWSRF capitalization grants. The CWSRFs may chose to use an amount equal to 20% of their capitalization grants from FY 2000 funds as grants from the CWSRF. Although the grant is limited to 20% of the Federal capitalization grants, the actual funds used to make the grants may come from previous loan repayments, interest earnings, bond proceeds, state match, as well as the Federal grant. If the State chooses to make grants with repayments, interest earnings or bond proceeds, the other Federal requirements applicable to the CWSRF program (cross-cutters) would not apply. This simplifies the use of these funds for small organizations and private land owners, who may find these requirements a deterrent to accepting funding. For more information, contact Stephanie vonFeck at (202) 260-9762, or download the recently developed fact sheet detailing the proposal (<http://www.epa.gov/owm/2kgtrfct.htm>).

### **National Onsite Demonstration Project**

The National Small Flows Clearinghouse recently submitted a report to Congress regarding progress and accomplishments under the National Onsite Demonstration Project. The project, funded by Congress through EPA's budget and administered by the Clearinghouse is entering its fifth phase of funding. Begun in 1993, the project has received \$6 million of funding for the purpose of demonstrating alternative onsite and decentralized wastewater technologies and management programs. A broad range of alternative technologies have been installed in the 13 states who are currently participating.. Copies of the report may be obtained from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse at 800-624-8301. For more information, contact Steve Hogue (202) 260-5841.

***END OF REPORT***